WEEKLY BULLETIN

CALIFORNIA STATE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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BERTRAM P. BROWN, M. D., Director

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VOL. XXI, No. 38 — OCTOBER 10, 1942 — GUY P. JONES, Editor

HEALTH, HOUSING AND WAR PRODUCTION

Under the above title, Mr. Ed W. Beale, Director of the Bureau of Sanitation of the San Diego Department of Public Health, has written the following, which was published in the monthly bulletin of that department:

It becomes increasingly evident that to secure shelter for large numbers of people, suddenly concentrated in areas to which they have been attracted by large building and production programs, proper attention to the end results of inferior housing is lacking.

There is a tendency to be lax in the requirements of safe housing, not only on the part of persons interested in profits to be derived from old buildings and shacks but on the part of short-sighted enforcing agencies.

It is not good practice to permit people to live in over-crowded buildings. Where this occurs there naturally follows insufficient toilet and bathing facilities, inadequate air space, poor ventilation and fire hazards.

The foregoing violations of good housing, where permitted to exist, have a definite bearing on the health of the occupants and consequently lowers the ability of said occupants to perform their duties as efficiently as would be possible if they were rested, bathed and otherwise nourished. Time lost to the production effort for any reason is to be avoided.

Time lost owing to any or all of the aforementioned reasons is a reflection on the housing authorities or agencies, and in our opinion borders on sabotage.

A person being unable to take his place in the production field is not only lost to the effort but becomes a liability.

We believe the conditions existing in many communities, that now endanger the ability of workers to carry on, can be improved immeasurably by proper attention to this particular field.

There is no excuse for uncleanliness. The elimination of dirt and filth requires only the desire to be clean and the will to do the necessary things to attain that end.

Any intelligent and conscientious inspector can be of great assistance in not only correcting insanitary conditions and illegal structures but can devise ways of increasing the property use by installations of windows in certain instances, making toilet and baths already installed accessible to a greater number of people by separating toilet and baths and opening them onto public hallways, and many other comparatively simple methods.

It is important to conserve critical materials. It is more important that the health of the nation be protected.

For centuries tomatoes were considered poisonous. One day Michele Corne, a brave painter of the War of 1812, ate one and lived. Today tomato pulp is fed to three weeks' old babies.

"It is one of the surprising facts of history that time and again peoples have reached a level of material prosperity and have attained standards of culture which would seem to have enabled them to go on into a civilization finer and richer than anything which the world has even known, only to be so overcome by the self-indulgence and the softening process attendant upon these conditions as to fall subject to barbarians who fell upon them."—Dr. Ernest Martin Hopkins.

CARBON MONOXIDE IN AIRPLANES

On complaint of various members of the plane crews of the airline concerning headaches experienced during and after flights, the Bureau of Industrial Hygiene was requested by the management to study flight conditions to ascertain if these symptoms could have been caused by excessive concentrations of carbon monoxide in the planes. Atmospheric tests were made with a sensitive carbon monoxide detector at the pilot's station, the flight engineer's station, and in each of the passenger compartments, under varying operating positions of the ship's ventilating system, and with windows closed.

Concentrations of carbon monoxide exceeding the recommended permissible limit of 100 parts per million were found at almost every sampling point. The highest concentrations were noted during descent. It was established that the carbon monoxide was entering the ship from the outside motors via cracks and openings in the wing section. Efforts were made to effect a lessening of the leakage by stuffing the cracks between the bomb bays in the wings and the passenger and crew quarters in the hull. Tests repeated on the same ship and at the same locations, after these corrections had been made, showed some improvement but that leakage was still sufficient to allow toxic concentrations to be built up.

Tests were later made on a similar ship which had been equipped with a ventilating opening on the side of the shell forward of the motors and connected into the ship's ventilating system. A more concentrated effort had been made to seal the cracks between the hull and wing sections, and vacuum ports had been installed in the wing section. The results of these controls were very evident from the data obtained. With the outside vent closed and the ship's ventilating system nonoperating, definitely lower concentrations of carbon monoxide were found, indicating the advisability of the sealing of the cracks. With the outside vent open and the fresh air thus obtained, circulating into the ship through the ship's ventilating system, but still with the fan nonoperating, a uniform distribution of the carbon monoxide of remarkably low concentration was found to exist throughout the entire ship. Under these conditions of controlling air flow and ventilation, there was apparently no hazard from carbon monoxide to crew or passengers.

It was noted, however, that the circulating air is heated by passing it around the exhaust pipe of a small gasoline engine. When the heater is in operation, there would be nothing to prevent excessively high quantities of carbon monoxide entering the ship's air through the ventilating system, should a hole of even minute size develop in this exhaust pipe. It was recommended that this manifold be checked periodically for holes and cracks, but that it would be better to provide a different type of heater similar to the liquid coil type used for automobiles.

COURSE ON HEART DISEASE ANNOUNCED

In its campaign to reduce the dangers of heart disease to California's children, the three chapters of the California Heart Association, will present Dr. T. Duckett Jones, eminent authority on rheumatic heart disease at its Annual Postgraduate Course on Heart Disease this fall. Course will be given in

San Francisco, November 5, 6, and 7.
Los Angeles, November 12 and 13.
San Diego, November 10.

Dr. Jones will report on the results of a recently completed ten-year study of one thousand cases of rheumatic fever and rheumatic heart disease. At present he is engaged in research under the sponsorship of the National Research Council. He is a member of the Advisory Medical Staff of the Children's Bureau rheumatic fever program.

FOOD BASKETS NOT FOR BABIES

Customers in chain food stores sometimes use the top basket on a shopping buggy to hold the baby. This practice is not only unesthetic but might also cause damage to foodstuffs that might be later placed in the same basket, and it constitutes an insanitary practice that is prohibited under Section 2 of the Food Sanitation Act. That portion of the section which applies reads as follows:

> "* * * * furniture, receptacles, utensils * * * * of every establishment or place where food is manufactured, packed, stored, sold or distributed, shall at no time be kept in an unclean, unhealthful or unsanitary condition; and for the purposes of this act, unclean unhealthful and unsanitary conditions shall be deemed to exist if food in the process of * * * * sale or distribution is not securely protected from * * * * unsanitary conditions and as far as may be necessary by all reasonable means from all other foreign or injurious contamination * * * *."

Section 11 of the same act provides that any person who violates any provisions of the act upon conviction shall be punished by a fine of not less than twenty-five dollars nor more than five hundred dollars, or shall be imprisoned in the county jail for a term not exceeding six months, or by both such fine and imprisonment.

"There are some men who lift the age which they inhabit—till all men walk on higher ground during that lifetime."—Maxwell Anderson.

LEAD EXPOSURE IN A STORAGE BATTERY PLANT

Based on recommendations which were made as the result of previous studies in a storage battery plant in the southern part of the State, the management made certain changes and corrections to the lead dust collecting system and asked the Bureau of Industrial Hygiene to repeat their studies to evaluate the efficiency of the corrections. As this plant is located within the jurisdiction of the Los Angeles County Division of Industrial Hygiene the State Bureau of Industrial Hygiene asked the Division to cooperate again with us in making the requested studies. Repeat tests were made at the dust collector on both the inlet and outlet sides, of the supplied air respirators used by employees on the grid burning line, of the grid burning operation, and in the forming room in order to find the lead content of the general plant atmosphere. The studies indicated an increase in the efficiency of the dust collecting system, but that still a sizeable quantity of lead dust was escaping into the atmosphere and contaminating the air supply for the supplied air respirators. It was suggested, therefore, that either the intake for the air compressor be changed to a point in the plant where it would be free of the possibility of contamination or that the exhaust stack on the outlet side of the dust collector be changed by increasing its height above the highest point of the roof.

DUST STUDIES IN A FOUNDRY

At the request of the management of a large foundry in the southern part of the State, determinations were made of dust concentrations at thirteen locations in the plant, and of carbon monoxide in the furnace areas, at the ladle heat operation, and in crane cabs. Five potentially dangerous locations were noted; viz: at the shaker screen sand reclamation process, the large sand mixing mill, the core sand mixing mill, the rotary steel shot blast, and at the electric furnaces. Practical control measures for minimizing the exposure to the dust and carbon monoxide hazards were made to the management.

"Never before have we had so little time in which to do so much."—Franklin D. Roosevelt.

REVISED LIST OF REPORTABLE DISEASES

Reportable Only:

Anthrax
Botulism—if commercial product notify State Department of Health at once.
Coccidioidal Granuloma
Dengue—keep patient in mosquito-free room.
Epilepsy
Food Poisoning
Glanders—report by phone or telegraph.
Jaundice—infectious or epidemic types.
Malaria—keep patient in mosquito-free room.
Pneumonia—specify type of pneumococcus, if known.
Relapsing Fever
Rheumatic Fever
Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever
Tetanus
Trichinosis
Tularemia
Undulant Fever

Reportable and Subject to Isolation:

Epidemic diarrhea of the newborn (in institutions)
Chickenpox
Dysentery—Amoebic
Dysentery—Bacillary—specify type, if known.
German Measles
Influenza
Measles
Mumps
Ophthalmia Neonatorum
Psittacosis
Rabies—in animals. Use special card.
Rabies—in humans.
Septic Sore Throat (in epidemic form).
Trachoma
Tuberculosis—use special card.
Whooping Cough
Syphilis—use special card.
Gonorrhea—use special card.
Chancroid—use special card.
Lymphopathia Venereum—use special card.
Granuloma—Inguinale—use special card.

Reportable and Subject to Quarantine and Placarding:

Cholera—report by telephone or telegraph to State Department of Health.
Diphtheria
Encephalitis (Infectious)—specify type, if known.

NOTE: This means all forms of acute encephalitis such as St. Louis type, equine type, and any other epidemic form occurring in California.

Leprosy
Meningitis (due to the meningococcus).
Paratyphoid Fever—specify type A or B.
Plague—report by telephone or telegraph to State Department of Health.
Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis
Scarlet Fever
Smallpox
Typhoid Fever
Typhus Fever
Yellow Fever—report by telephone or telegraph to State Department of Health.

MORBIDITY*

Complete Reports for Certain Diseases Recorded for Week Ending October 3, 1942

Chickenpox

131 cases from the following counties Alameda 14, Contra Costa 8, Fresno 3, Humboldt 1, Kern 1, Lassen 1, Los Angeles 21, Madera 1, Marin 3, Monterey 1, Napa 1, Orange 4, Riverside 1, Sacramento 1, San Diego 13, San Francisco 21, San Joaquin 4, San Mateo 2, Santa Barbara 1, Santa Clara 4, Santa Cruz 1, Sonoma 9, Stanislaus 11, Sutter 3, Ventura 1.

German Measles

42 cases from the following counties: Alameda 5, Fresno 1, Kern 2, Los Angeles 19, Orange 2, Riverside 3, San Bernardino 2, San Diego 4, San Francisco 2, San Luis Obispo 1, Santa Clara 1.

Measles

46 cases from the following counties: Alameda 4, Kern 1, Los Angeles 14, Merced 1, Sacramento 1, San Bernardino 5, San Diego 2, San Francisco 12, San Joaquin 1, San Luis Obispo 2, Santa Cruz 1, Sonoma 2.

Mumps

283 cases from the following counties: Alameda 41, Contra Costa 1, Fresno 8, Kern 2, Lassen 1, Los Angeles 80, Mendocino 3, Monterey 5, Orange 32, Riverside 3, Sacramento 2, San Bernardino 4, San Diego 36, San Francisco 23, San Joaquin 1, San Luis Obispo 4, San Mateo 4, Santa Barbara 1, Santa Clara 6, Santa Cruz 12, Solano 1, Sonoma 1, Stanislaus 5, Tulare 2, Ventura 3, Yolo 2.

Scarlet Fever

75 cases from the following counties: Alameda 5, Contra Costa 1, Fresno 1, Kern 6, Lassen 5, Los Angeles 22, Riverside 4, Sacramento 4, San Bernardino 1, San Diego 7, San Francisco 6, San Joaquin 1, San Mateo 2, Santa Clara 1, Sonoma 2, Sutter 2, Ventura 2, Yuba 3.

Whooping Cough

217 cases from the following counties: Alameda 25, Contra Costa 6, Fresno 10, Kern 1, Los Angeles 48, Madera 4, Monterey 8, Orange 7, Sacramento 8, San Benito 1, San Bernardino 15, San Diego 34, San Francisco 4, San Joaquin 15, San Luis Obispo 4, Santa Clara 10, Solano 2, Sonoma 2, Sutter 3, Ventura 9, Yolo 1.

Diphtheria

19 cases from the following counties: Fresno 1, Lake 3, Los Angeles 6, Sacramento 3, San Bernardino 2, San Francisco 1, San Joaquin 2, Sutter 1.

Epilepsy

95 cases from the following counties: Alameda 1, Amador 2, Fresno 1, Los Angeles 76, Sacramento 2, San Bernardino 3, San Francisco 4, Sonoma 5, Tulare 1.

Botulism

2 cases from Marin County.

Coccidioidal Granuloma

2 cases from the following counties: Kern 1, San Francisco 1.

Dysentery (Bacillary)

7 cases from the following counties: Alameda 1, Los Angeles 3, Merced 1, Sonoma 2.

Encephalitis (Infectious)

2 cases from Kings County.

Influenza (Epidemic)

20 cases reported in the State.

Jaundice (Infectious)

2 cases from the following counties: Los Angeles 1, San Diego 1.

Malaria

6 cases from the following counties: Kern 1, Los Angeles 1, Madera 1, Sutter 1, Tulare 1, Yuba 1.

Meningitis (Meningococcic)

5 cases from the following counties: Alameda 2, Los Angeles 2, California 1.**

Paratyphoid Fever

One case from Stanislaus County.

Poliomyelitis (Acute Anterior)

17 cases from the following counties: Alameda 1, Los Angeles 12, San Diego 3, Tulare 1.

Rabies (Animal)

7 cases from the following counties: Fresno 1, Kings 1, Los Angeles 3, Madera 1, San Diego 1.

Rheumatic Fever (Acute)

8 cases from the following counties: Alameda 1, Los Angeles 5, Orange 1, Santa Clara 1.

Tularemia

One case: California.**

Typhoid Fever

8 cases from the following counties: Kern 1, Los Angeles 1, San Francisco 2, Santa Clara 1, Solano 2, California 1.**

Undulant Fever

3 cases from the following counties: Los Angeles 2, Tulare 1.

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* Data regarding the other reportable diseases not listed herein, may be obtained upon request.

** Cases charged to "California" represent patients ill before entering the State or those who contracted their illness traveling about the State throughout the incubation period of the disease. These cases are not chargeable to any one locality.

The California State Department of Public Health is proud of the members of its staff who have entered the armed forces of the United States. It is with a sense of great pride that the names of the following men who have entered such forces are listed here:

UNITED STATES NAVY

Lloyd P. Bascom
Alcor Browne
O. L. Butterfield
James R. Keefer
Francis J. Lenehan
Rollyn E. Malde
E. B. Mansfield
John Martin, M.D.
Jack W. Pratt
Don Roberts
Robert E. Ryan

UNITED STATES ARMY

Ray Atkinson, M.D.
Beckwith Clark
Jules Comroe, M.D.
Leon Comroe, M.D.
Joseph Copeland, M.D.
Sidney F. Dommes, Jr.
Robert Dyar, M.D.
J. J. Fitzgerald, M.D.
Herbert B. Foster
George Husser, M.D.
Edward Maher, M.D.
Richard Peters
Julius R. Scholtz, M.D.
Joseph B. Smith

UNITED STATES MARINES

John Cruzan

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